

Center Point

Newsletter 🍁 August & September 2022

Special Acknowledgements

As we go into this school year, we're looking forward to having the best year ever! Welcome back all new/seasoned staff and students. Center Point is looking forward to returning to academics and programming, so we can continue to support students through their academic journey. Our biggest emphasis this year is continuing to be **RESTORATIVE** with our approach in all program areas. Let's go!!

Check out our virtual tour of the Wilderness Center here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GFOXWlzrlyk>

Upcoming Events

August 15- In-Service

August 16- Last Day of SOS Program

August 17-24- In-Service

August 25- First Day of School

September 2- Adventure Day

September 5- Closed

September 23- Community Day

September 26- Reward Day



▶ SCAN ME

BUILD UP... OR BE QUIET!

Diakon Youth Services has made arrangements to sell a variety of shirts and sweatshirts that reflect one of our program emphases on being positive: #BBQ, or Build Up or Be Quiet! These shirts were provided last year for students and staff members and were a big hit, with others more recently asking how they could obtain one.

As a result, we have arranged with Artistic Imprints for the items, which will be shipped directly to you at no extra costs. All varieties and costs can be found at the storefront link below. And the best thing is that all proceeds directly benefit the programs of Diakon Youth Services.

https://artisticimprints.3dcartstores.com/Diakon-BBQ_c_811.html



Meet the Staff



Jeremias Garcia is the assistant administrator at Diakon Wilderness Center. Jeremias has been working at the Wilderness Center for 15 years. He will be completing his Graduate Degree in restorative practices from the International Institute of Restorative Practices in November 2022. Jeremias looks forward to continuing to build relationships with the students, families, and community partners. In his spare time Jeremias enjoys playing, coaching, refereeing to basketball, and spending time with his family.

Lee Bzdil is the CAIU Program Supervisor. She has an EdD from Drexel and has been in the education field for 18 years. Lee has held several titles during her career including teaching in multiple programs, and Supervision of Special education programs, and she has the 22-23 school year will be her second year with the CAIU. Lee is looking forward to getting to know each of the students who attend Center Point this year. In her free time, Lee enjoys spending time with her four children and two dogs. They enjoy spending time outdoors, especially near the water.



Tyler Hess is the Center Point Day program supervisor. Tyler has worked at the Wilderness Center for four years and is a US Army veteran. Tyler has a bachelor's degree in psychology with a specialization in addiction studies. Tyler's favorite thing about the Wilderness Center is that it gives youth opportunities that they would not have elsewhere. He looks forward to seeing the staff and students' successes this year. In his free time, Tyler enjoys kayaking, golfing, and fishing.

Natasha Goodhart has worked at Center Point for five years. She began her career at the Wilderness Center as an intern and is now the clinical restorative practice coach. Natasha earned a graduate degree in psychology with a specialization in development and behavior. She is also a licensed behavior specialist and certified trauma and resilience practitioner. Natasha's favorite thing about the Wilderness Center is the unique opportunities that the program provides to the students. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her two toddler sons, unting, fishing, and learning new things.





Jason Brode is the executive director of Diakon Youth Services. Jason has a bachelor's degree in political science and has 30 years and counting of experience at the Wilderness Center. Jason's favorite part of the Center used to be watching woolly mammoths walk the trails, but nowadays he enjoys watching the seasons change and seeing the little bambies every year. He is looking forward to seeing another group of students grow, succeed, and graduate class of 2023. His main interest is being a dog dad.



Marvin Butts is the director of Wilderness Services. Marvin has devoted 20 years of service to the Wilderness Center. He looks forward to connecting and building relationships with the youth and supporting the youth by utilizing experimental education through hands-on adventure activities. His hobbies include being a father, supporting others, camping, and the occasional Xbox session.



Kevin Fatherree is a CAIU Special Education and Social Studies Teacher at Center Point. Kevin has worked at the Wilderness Center for 10 years, however, he has been in the education field for 16 years. He has a bachelor's of science, psychology degree from James Madison University and Masters in Education from Eastern University. Kevin's favorite thing about the Wilderness Center is having the opportunity to work with unique students who don't fit the typical high school mold and getting to see them grow and realize that they are capable of success in all aspects of their lives. Kevin's hobbies include renovation projects around his house, art, and TV/ movies.

Courtney Blaylock is a behavior interventionist at Center Point and the 22-23 school year will be her second year working at The Wilderness Center. Courtney has her MSW from Shippensburg University. Her favorite thing about the Wilderness Center is the location and she looks forward to seeing the returning students and getting the build relationships with new students. In her free time, Courtney enjoys spending time with her dog, reading, and taking naps.



Kayla Lingle is a CAIU licensed social worker at Center Point. Kayla earned her bachelors degree from IUP and Graduate Degree from the University of Pittsburg. Her favorite thing about the Wilderness Center is being outdoors and the flexibility to create. create. She looks forward to getting the students and staff outside more to experience the therapeutic benefits of the great outdoors. In her free time, she loves hiking, playing with her dogs, watching TikTok, indoor plants, swimming, and trying new foods.



Dan Cannaday will be joining the team this year as the programming teacher with the CAIU. This will be Dan's second year working at the Wilderness Center. Dan has a bachelor's degree in camping recreating and outdoor ministry and has completed graduate work in special education. Dan enjoys working in a non-traditional classroom setting because the opportunities to explore and learn experientially often provides a more fun and impactful way to learn important skills. He is excited to take on his new role as a teacher and is hopeful it will provide a new and meaningful way to interact with students.



Kim Patten is the director of the Wilderness Greenhouse and the Horticulture Vocation instructor. Kim has been working at the Wilderness Center for the past eight years. She loves the Wilderness Center because of its natural setting and all of the hands-on opportunities for learning that the center provides. Kim believes that moving across campus throughout the day, being outside in the wilderness, experiencing wildlife and weather helps us slow things down and be more present. She is looking forward to growing with our students, both literally and figuratively, and to building strong, supportive, and dynamic culture at Center Point. In her free time, Kim enjoys cooking, traveling, reading, watching movies, and learning new things.



Chad Barnett is an activities assistant at Center Point and will be taking on the roles as a vocational instructor this year. He was been at the Wilderness Center for one year and has also worked in the Diakon Bridge Program. Chad's favorite thing about the Wilderness Center is the outdoor activities that are available. He looks forward to getting to meet new kids and help them grow and meet their goals. Chad's hobbies include reading, sports, and video games.



Stephanie O'Donnell is joining the Center Point team this year as a math teacher for the CAIU. She is certified in elementary education K-6, reading specialist Pk-12, and middle school mathematics. She has a background working with all levels of K-12 and beyond in various positions including math interventions, online teaching, and reading support, preparation for GED, and job/career readiness skills. Stephanie looks forward to getting to know the students and making an impact on their lives. Her hobbies include golfing, hunting, fishing, and watching her 9-year-old son play multiple sports.



Corinne Bennett is joining the Diakon team this year as a CAIU licensed social worker. Corinne's favorite thing about the Wilderness Center is the multifaceted approach to meeting the needs of the students. She also loves the outdoor adventure based aspect of the program. She is looking forward to getting to know the students and staff. Corinne's hobbies and interest include spending time with her husband and three children. She loves to go hiking, read books, and spend time with friends.

Dave Crowther is the director of nutrition services and has been working at the Wilderness Center for the past 16 years. He has been working in the culinary field for over 33 years. Dave's favorite thing about the Wilderness Center is the atmosphere of support and growth for students and the community. He looks forward to reconnecting with students and staff during the 22-23 school year. In his free time, he enjoys playing keyboards and has recently started drawing.



Jess Kelley is a program counselor at Center Point. She is entering her second year at Center Point. Jess has worked in the field for over 20 years. Jess's favorite thing about the Wilderness Center is being about to work with the youth and providing them with the resources that they need to be successful. She looks forward to the 22-23 school year is to continue to be an avenue of support for the students and continue to be a leader in their lives. Her hobbies include her family, shooting pool, dirt track racing, and adventure activities.

Suann McAfee is a paraprofessional/PCA with the CAIU. She has worked at the Wilderness Center for three years. Suann has a bachelor's degree in applied behavior science. She enjoys working with the staff and students and is looking forward to working with her 1:1 student, building relationships, and Chef's cooking. Suann enjoys planting flowers, spending time with her grandson, family, and dogs.



Erin Rose is a mental health worker at Center Point. She joined the team in May 2022 and the 22- 23 school year will be her first full year. Erin has a bachelor's degree in psychology. Erin enjoys the outdoors environment at the Wilderness Center and looks forward to working with the team and building relationships. She enjoys running, hiking, snowboarding, stained glass, and traveling.

Jerry Fritz is a mental health worker entering his second year at the wilderness center. His favorite thing about working at Center Point is the outdoor adventure experiences, especially, the giant swing. Jerry looks forward to spending a lot of time on the trails and making positive and impactful relationships with students. In his free time he enjoys kickboxing, Jujitsu, reading, kayaking, trying new foods, and traveling.

